

### **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a).

Claims 31-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claims 31-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 31-37 are pending. Claims 31 and 34-36 have been amended to improve form. No new claims have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been introduced by the amendments made herein.

### **Drawing Objections**

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). In particular, the Examiner states:

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) because they fail to show the first and second state machines and their interconnections with the remainder of the element as claimed in the newly amended claims. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawings. MPEP § 608.02(d). Correction is required.

(P.2 Office Action 6/13/00).

Applicants respectfully submit that the drawings are in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) and support the first and second state machines and their interconnections as

recited in the claims. Specifically, Figure 3 of the drawings clearly show a command state machine 203 (first state machine) and a write state machine 205 (second state machine) interconnected by a line 270. Thus, the claimed first state machine and second state machine and their interconnections as recited in the claims are clearly supported in the drawings. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection to the drawings.

**35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph, Rejection**

The Examiner has rejected claims 31-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In particular, the Examiner states:

There is no showing or description in the specification of the first state machine configured to update at least one of the bits indicating a suspend status of a write operation in response to a suspend signal or a second state machine coupled to said first state machine and configured to control the output of the status signal in response to a status request signal.

(pp. 2-3 Office Action 6/13/00).

As noted above, Figure 3 of the drawings clearly show a first state machine (command state machine 203) and a second state machine (write state machine 205) interconnected via line 270. Furthermore, the specification on pages 9-15 clearly describe the command state machine 203 and the write state machine 205, which provides support in the specification for a first state machine and a second state machine. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejection.

**35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph, Rejection**

The Examiner has rejected claims 31-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that:

Applicant is reminded of 37 C.F.R. 1.75(d)(1) which states that the claim or claims must conform to the invention as set forth in the remainder of the specification and the terms and phrases used in the claims must find clear support or antecedent basis in the description so that the meaning of the terms in the claims may be ascertainable by reference to the description. (See 1.58(a).) There is no discussion or showing of the first and second state machines in the remainder of the specification, nor is there anything in the remainder of the specification that clearly corresponds to such terminology. Thus, the claims are indefinite.

(p. 3 Office Action 6/13/00).

For similar reasons as noted above with respect to the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejection, applicants respectfully point out that the claimed first and second state machines have been described clearly in the specification and are shown clearly in Figure 3 of the drawings. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the applicable § 112, first and second paragraph, rejections and drawing objections have been overcome. Accordingly, applicants request that claims 31-37 be found in condition of allowance.

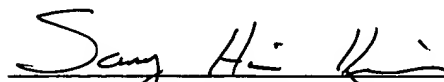
If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Mike Kim at (408) 720-8300 x345.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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